

ABSTRACT

A wheel end assembly includes a bearing shaft having an inboard end and an outboard end, a wheel hub mounted onto the outboard end of the bearing shaft, and a detachable outboard joint mounted onto the inboard end of the bearing shaft. A wheel bearing is mounted onto the bearing shaft between the inboard end and the outboard end. The inboard end of the bearing shaft includes a flange portion to support the wheel bearing on the bearing shaft and to induce a pre-load into the wheel bearing such that the pre-load is maintained on the wheel bearing when the outboard joint is removed from the wheel end assembly. A support hub is positioned between and interconnects the detachable outboard joint and the bearing shaft. The support hub has a shaft portion that engages the bearing shaft and an engagement portion extending axially from the shaft portion.